



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 4	Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
<i>Memo published:</i> May 8, 2003 <i>Contact:</i> Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney (266-9280)	

Current law provides that revenues from license fees paid by hunters and from sport and recreation fishing licenses may only be applied to administration costs of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) when those costs relate to responsibilities that are specific to the management of the fish and wildlife resources. The statute provides that the DNR may not expend for administrative costs from the Fish and Wildlife Account of the Conversation Fund an amount that exceeds 16% of the total expenditures from that account for a fiscal year. The statute also states that “administrative costs” consist of costs incurred in the administration of DNR and its divisions and in providing support services to DNR. [s. 25.29 (3) and (3m), Stats.]

Assembly Bill 4 directs the Joint Committee on Finance to determine what constitutes the administration of the DNR for the purposes of current law.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 further defines the statutory “administrative costs” of the DNR to include the costs of administering its bureaus and the costs of issuing licenses and other approvals. The substitute amendment requires DNR, on September 1 of each odd-numbered year commencing in 2003, to submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Finance specifying how the DNR will meet the 16% cap. The Joint Committee on Finance is given 14 working days to schedule a meeting to review the plan. If the co-chairs do not schedule a meeting, the department may implement the plan. If the co-chairs schedule a meeting, the department may implement the plan only as approved or modified by the committee.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative D. Meyer and adopted by the Assembly by a vote of Ayes, 92; Noes, 4 on January 30, 2003.

The bill was concurred in by the Senate by a vote of Ayes, 18; Noes, 12, on May 6, 2003.

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